

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1946.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1946, it is again an abridged one in accordance with Circular 13/47, Ministry of Health.

Infectious Diseases.

The area has been remarkably free from Infectious Diseases, no cases of Scarlet Fever, Typhoid, Cerbro-Spinal Fever, have been notified, and no cases of Anthrax, Dysentery, or Infantile Paralysis have been brought to my notice.

Diphtheria.

One case of diphtheria only was notified in a girl of 10 years who had not been immunised, she made a satisfactory recovery.

The Immunisation Scheme has been continued with success, it is carried out by myself at the Schools, and at special Clinics as required, for those under school age.

Next year it will be a feature at the routine Infant Welfare Clinics, and done by the Medical Officer who attends for consultations.

Tuberculosis.

Four new cases of the lungs were notified last year of whom one was an Ex-Service case, and two transferred from other areas.

The death rate from all forms of the disease was 292 per million, as compared with 884, 832, 269, 0, 243, 1,082, 298, in 1945, 1944, 1943, 1942, 1941, 1940, and 1939 respectively.

Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate 16.1 per 1,000 as compared with 12.6 per 1,000 in 1945, and 19.1 per 1,000 (E & W).

Death Rate 14.0 per 1,000 as compared with 13.5 per 1,000 in 1945, and 11.5 per 1,000 (E & W).

Infantile Mortality 54 per 1,000 as compared with 0.0 per 1,000 in 1945, and 43 per 1,000 (E & W).

The population (Mid 1946) as estimated by the Registrar General was 3,425.

Causes of Deaths.

No deaths were recorded from Measles, Whooping Cough, Enteric Fever, Cerbro-Spinal Fever, Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria.

Influenza was the cause of one death only.

The principal causes of deaths were:-

Heart Disease	10
Respiratory Diseases	10
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	7
Cancer	7
Tuberculosis	1

Water Supply.

The Major part of the district is supplied with water by the Stroud District Water Board, and one of the sources (Gigg Mill) is within the Urban District, although very pure at the source, it is as a precaution Chlorinated before going into supply. Monthly samples show that it has a high degree of purity, B. Coli. being absent in practically every sample in 100 c.cs., below is the result of one sample taken last year.

Total Dissolved Solids	-	36.2 parts per 100,000.
Combined Chlorine	-	1.4
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	-	0.092
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	-	absent
Mineral Ammonia	-	absent
Organic Ammonia	-	absent
Oxygen required to oxidise the organic matter in three hours	-	Nil
Temporary Hardness	-	21.5
Permanent Hardness	-	6.5
Total Hardness	-	28.0

Bacteriological Examination.

Micro-organisms in one c.c. capable
of growing on Agar at 22°C in 3 days - 2

Micro-organisms in one c.c. capable
of growing on Agar at 37°C in 48 hours - 2

Sewerage.

The Urban District is included in the Scheme prepared for the area of the Stroud Urban and Rural District Councils, and certain extensions (internal) are under consideration, inevitable delays have occurred, and no start has yet been made.

Housing.

The Council have plans for the erection of houses for the working classes, and at the end of the year eighteen houses were in the course of construction.

No houses were completed and occupied during the year.

Four houses were built or in the course of construction by private enterprise.

In conclusion I have to thank the Council for their continued co-operation and support, and the Sanitary Inspector for his assistance at all times.

I have the honour to be
your obedient servant,

NICHOLAS D. DUNSCOMBE.

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1947.

